



NEWS RELEASE

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November 26, 2008

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SBA Partners With State of Florida's Office of Supplier Diversity To Increase Government Contracts to Small Businesses

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.– The U.S. Small Business Administration North Florida District Office signed a Strategic Alliance Memorandum (SAM) with the State of Florida's Office of Supplier Diversity/Department of Management Services in order to strengthen and expand contracting opportunities for small business across the State of Florida.

Under the formal partnership agreement, the State of Florida's Office of Supplier Diversity will work with the SBA's North Florida District Office to market their business development services and to reach out to small business owners across the State of Florida. "The purpose of this Memorandum is to develop and foster mutual understanding and strengthen the working relationship between the SBA and State of Florida's Office of Supplier Diversity in order to strengthen and expand small business development throughout the State of Florida," says Wilfredo J. Gonzalez, SBA North Florida District Director. "Each Party has separate services and resources which, when delivered in coordination with each other, will provide greater benefits to the small, minority and women-owned businesses across Florida."

This agreement presents a great opportunity for collaboration to ensure the small business owners of Florida will get the valuable assistance the State of Florida and the U.S. Small Business Administration have to offer that will enable them to maximize their success in the marketplace.

The Strategic Alliance Memorandum was signed by Wilfredo J. Gonzalez, SBA North Florida District Director, and Linda H. South, Secretary, Florida Department of Management Services during the Office of Supplier Diversity's 2008 Matchmaker Conference & Tradeshow at the Gaylord Palms Resort in Orlando, Florida on November 21st.

The SBA, founded in 1953, is chartered by the U.S. Congress to champion the cause of small businesses. SBA helps entrepreneurs start and grow strong businesses that create jobs and strengthen communities. For more information about SBA, go to: www.sba.gov.

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